

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086844
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAB-02
EUR-12 SSC-01 ACDA-12 EB-08 /112 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:GBROWN:LHW
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:RWYROUGH
-----112309 050013Z /17
O 042320Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV

SUBJECT: GEYER STORY REPORTING CUBAN/COMMUNIST INFLUENCE
IN PANAMA

1. IN A STORY FROM PANAMA, GEORGIE ANN GEYER (LA TIMES
SYNDICATE) MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: BEGIN TEXT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE 14 YEARS I HAVE BEEN COMING
DOWN HERE, THE AMERICANS ON THE SPOT ARE ADMITTING TO
CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.

INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA HAS REVEALED
TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT A NUMBER OF PANAMANIANIANS HAVE
BEEN TRAINED IN INTELLIGENCE IN CUBA, WHICH MEANS THEY
WERE TRAINED DIRECTLY BY SOVIETS IN SOVIET METHODS.

IN ADDITION, OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO, THE MINISTRY OF
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AGRICULTURE WAS CLEANED OUT BY STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST
GUARDIA GEN. LT. COL. RUBEN DARIO PAREDES, ENRAGED AT
THE DOZENS OF CUBAN ADVISERS PUT IN KEY SPOTS BY THE
COMMUNIST MINISTER, GERARDO GONZALEZ, NOW VICE-PRESIDENT.

IN ADDITION, HEALTH AND LABOR MINISTRIES STILL ARE
COMMUNIST-LED, THERE ARE 60 CUBANS IN THE ABNORMALLY

LARGE CUBAN EMBASSY HERE AND RECENT HUSHED-UP SCANDALS
HAVE GIVEN PROOF THAT PANAMA HAS BEEN GIVING PANAMANIAN
PASSPORTS TO CUBANS WANTING TO GET INTO NICARAGUA AND
OTHER KEY AREAS. END TEXT.

2. WE EXPECT THIS STORY TO COME UP IN DEBATE. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS FOR REPLY TO THE ABOVE POINTS.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISM, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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